



Elmer Emil Cole

December 22, 1919 - June 5, 2019

COLE: Elmer Emil Cole (formerly Schlapkohl) of Brandon, December 22nd, 1919 - June 5th, 2019. It is with great sadness that the family of Elmer Emil Cole announces the peaceful passing of our beloved Papa, on Wednesday, June 5th, 2019 at the age of 99 years. Elmer passed quietly in the comfort of his home surrounded by loved ones at his side. Elmer was born and raised on his family homestead in Roche Percee, Saskatchewan on December 22nd, 1919. He was one of five young men born to the late Henry and Bertha Schlapkohl. He is predeceased by his loving wife of over 60 years, Isabel Cole (English), sons Elgin and Keith Cole, as well as his brothers, Fred, Alfred, Arnold and Louis Schlapkohl. Elmer will forever be remembered by his 11 Grandchildren, 38 Great Grandchildren and 6 Great Great Grandchildren. Fondly remembered by his many nieces, nephews, extended family and many good friends. Elmer was a kind, humble and selfless man who dedicated many years of his life to helping others. A Veteran and Prisoner of War for 3 years, Elmer was the recipient of many medals of honour for his service in WWII as a Churchill MKIII tank driver for the King's Own Calgary Tank Regiment at the Dieppe Raid in August of 1942. His greatest distinction and honour was being Knighted by the French Legion of Honour for extreme bravery. Elmer married his waiting sweetheart, Isabel, when he returned from the war, adopted and raised two loving sons, owned his own farmstead, travelled the world, volunteered and simply enjoyed life and all that was given to him. He continued dedicating his time to others his entire life and was a volunteer at Fairview Personal Care Home for 32 years, a member of the Kiwanis club since 1984, and an avid square dancer to name a few. He led a wonderful and fulfilling life with a family he adored and surrounded himself with whenever he could. Elmer found the light and optimism through even the darkest of days. His outlook on life has been an inspiration to those around him to take what life may deal you and make it the very best it can be. He always believed in and sought out the good in people and the world. He is our families' greatest treasure and our guiding star. We will never forget the lessons he taught us all. We would like to take a moment for a special thanks to Dr. Egan for her dedication, love and respect she's provided through the years. She has been a wonderful friend to the family and we appreciate all you have done for us. We would also like to say thank you to Brockie Donovan Funeral Home for their kindness,

consideration and respect shown to us during this time. Please join us in a Celebration of Elmer's life at 2:00 p.m. this Tuesday, June 11th, 2019 at the Grace Lutheran Church, 3101 Victoria Avenue in Brandon, Manitoba. Interment will follow at Rosewood Memorial Gardens.

Cemetery

Rosewood Memorial Gardens

Hwy 1A West

Brandon, MB,

Events

JUN **Celebration of Life** 02:00PM

11

Grace Lutheran Church

3101 Victoria Ave., Brandon, MB, CA

Comments



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Shirley Beuker - November 09 at 03:03 PM



“ We have just heard that our beloved uncle Elmer, has passed away. Our condolences go out to the family. He will be missed, no doubt about that. Elmer Cole is my uncle by marriage, as his wife Isabel, who passed away some years ago, was the sister of my father W. Harold English of Regina, SK. We are all getting on in years, as I am 85 now. But I remember both Elmer and Isabel well and I loved them both dearly.

It seems like just yesterday that I talked to him on his last birthday, I think he was 98. I had the habit of calling him every year, for a long time now.

My first memories of Elmer was just before he went away to war. Aunt Isabel was then engaged to him to be married. And then we did not hear anything from him for so long, and we all thought he had died in Europe. Aunt Isabel was heartbroken. After about two or three years she even started dating again. But she was still in love with her Elmer.

Then one day, just out of the blue, while Isabel was at our farm near Regina, there was a phone call. It was for Isabel and we all thought it was another one of her would-be suitors.

But all she heard was: "Isabel, its me!". She recognized that voice and she screamed. We had to hold her up, as she was about to faint, even while jumping up and down..

Then Elmer came to visit. Wow!! What a time we had.

After I fell in love myself with my now husband Gary of 61 years, we visited Elmer and Isabel often at their place near Estevan, SK. They had two boys, just little rascals at that time.

But then we all moved further apart. Us to Calgary, and Elmer and Isabel to somewhere in Oak ridge in Manitoba. Never did make it there. But we did get a visit from them once, with Uncle Elmer driving his beloved Chevy, a Bell Air model I think. After that it was just phone calls. But I will miss him. I have his picture on our shelf, being honored last year by the Air Force.

We will miss him dearly. And not only us, but by my brother Guy and sister Colleen as well.

Shirley Jean Beuker (nee English).

Shirley Beuker - November 09 at 02:46 PM



“ Condolences to Leslie (daughter-in-law) and Ken, and all the family of the late Elmer Cole. I will always remember his cooking and talking to him by phone..

Melvin Oldford - June 08 at 09:54 AM



“ He loved everyone and made you feel at home and everyone was to eat he loved having big family meals; the more the merrier. He had a big heart and he will be missed by us - Colton and Mathew and Delorus. He always made us feel like family.

Delorus - June 08 at 02:38 AM



“ PAPA Cole was our adopted grandfather. We love him so much. He was an humble man with a special smile. Always so happy to see you. We especially remember the Christmas supper: More than 50 people sitting at the table, the full meal including that big turkey that he will cook himself, and refusing any help. He loved everyone but little children were his reward. Thank you Grand-pa for everything you done and now rest in peace.

Our deepest sympathies to all of you. We are so sorry for your loss. There are no words that can truly ease this pain. All the memories will be treasures now. We will remember PAPA Cole forever.

From Andre and Pierrette Labelle and families.

Families of Pierrette and Andre Labelle - June 07 at 11:32 PM



“ Dear Family: We are very sorry for your loss. Elmer's mother Bertha was a sister to my Grandmother, Riola Morine. I am the daughter of Riola's youngest child, Joyce, who passed away in 2012 at age 80 (glioblastoma brain tumor). My mother always spoke on the phone with Elmer prior to Christmas, and would marvel that he was hosting a big dinner and doing the preparations himself. I remember meeting Elmer and Isabelle in Estevan at a special reunion. I have a photograph of their wedding, I think. ...was it a double wedding with another couple? I'm into the history and genealogy searching and would love to know. Elmer lived an amazing 99 years! He has an infectious smile in this picture! We know he will be missed and we are sorry to hear of your loss! Sincerely, Joan and Roger Lanoie, St. Victor, Saskatchewan

Joan LANOIE - June 11 at 11:14 PM